

# ***NEWS***

*From the Office of*

## **Brad Mitzelfelt**

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### **New High Desert Government Center to be Solar Powered**

SAN BERNARDINO – The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors on April 13 approved an agreement with the City of Hesperia to install a solar energy system at the High Desert Government Center, now under construction in Hesperia.

“With a minimal County investment, thanks to grants from the state and federal governments, the High Desert Government Center will be a showcase of energy efficiency and will save the taxpayers thousands of dollars per year in energy costs,” said Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt. “At a time when the state is trying to reach an ambitious goal for renewal energy production, this project demonstrates how local government can be a leader.”

The estimated total cost to construct the solar project is \$2,823,000. It is being funded with a \$1,480,000 energy efficiency grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus bill), \$720,000 from the California Solar Initiative, and \$623,000 in contingency funds from the High Desert Government Center.

The 286-kilowatt solar energy system is expected to reduce electricity consumption for the building by 70 percent and result in an estimated annual savings of approximately \$60,000.

The \$29.2 million High Desert Government Center, currently under construction at 15900 Smoke Tree Street in Hesperia in the City’s Civic Center area, is expected to be complete later this year. It will include offices for many County departments, giving High Desert residents a central location to access County services. Design modifications are being done now to incorporate the energy system.